

# DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship to host free rain barrel building workshop March 19 in Blades

**DOVER** – DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship will host a free rain barrel building workshop at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 19 at the Blades Town Hall, 20 West 4th Street, Seaford, DE 19973. All supplies will be provided and participants after completing the workshop will leave with their free rain barrel.

The workshop will begin with an overview of rain barrels including the benefits, do's and don'ts, assembly and maintenance. The Delaware Nature Society also will share other techniques to help improve Delaware's waterways. Workshop participants will receive free kits to convert plastic drums into rain barrels, with plastic drums donated by Dogfish Head Brewery and Coca-Cola. Participants will choose and assemble their barrel, with assistance available from DNREC staff.

The number of participants is limited and pre-registration is required, with free tickets available at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rain-barrel-building-workshop-tickets-22499188679>

For more information about the rain barrel building workshop, please contact Philip Miller at 302-290-3578 or [philip.miller@delaware.gov](mailto:philip.miller@delaware.gov).

*The rain barrel building workshop is part of "Reclaim Our River, Nanticoke Series," a program designed to bring more water quality-oriented events, workshops and recreational opportunities to the Nanticoke Watershed. This program provides important information on techniques to reduce*

nutrient and sediment pollution and other ways to improve water quality. The series also promotes public access to waterways and provides recreational opportunities as a way to connect residents to their waterways and inspire them to make improvements. For more information on the Reclaim Our River Program, click: <http://delawarewatersheds.org/>. For upcoming Reclaim Our River events, click [2016 Reclaim Our River Calendar of Events](#) or [Reclaim Our River Series Guide](#).

### **What is a Rain Barrel?**

A rain barrel is a container that collects and stores water from roofs and downspouts for uses such as watering lawns, gardens, and house plants; cleaning off gardening tools; and washing your car. Rain barrels help lower your water bills, particularly in the summer months by collecting thousands of gallons of water a year. Rain barrels are also important for our environment because they help reduce water pollution by decreasing the amount of stormwater runoff reaching our streams and rivers. An average rainfall of one inch within a 24-hour period can produce more than 700 gallons of water that run off a typical house. This stormwater runoff picks up anything on the ground such as litter, excess fertilizer, pet waste, and motor oil, transporting it to storm drains that dump the untreated water directly into our waterways.

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